National warning system for Tsunami

1968. DR. VI JAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hyderabad based Department of Ocean Development (DOD) is setting up a long-term and round-the clock National Tsunami warning system;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to strengthen DOD; and

(c) the number of places that have been identified to set up warning centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) It is proposed to set up a Tsunami and Storm Surge Early Warning system by the Department of Ocean Development with its Centre at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad. The system will comprise of the following components:

- Strengthening of the existing seismological network to indicate in near real time occurrence of tsunamigenic earthquakes.
- Installation of tsunami warning sensors close to the ocean bottom at appropriate locales in the Indian Ocean, with real time connectivity.
- Tide gauge and data buoys networking.
- Modelling of the inundation scenarios for the entire coast.
- Collection of information, analysis and generating status advisories.

The Centre is proposed to operate on round the clock basis.

Minerals from deep sea

1969. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have undertaken the work of mapping and assessing the availability of mineral resources from the deep sea;

(b) if so, the work done so far in this regard;

(c) whether any exploration work has been undertaken; and

(d) if so, the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the survey and exploration component of the polymetallic nodule programme, 70 cruises were undertaken so far with about 11000 samplings in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The resource potential of the polymetallic nodules of the Area in the Central Indian Ocean Basin is estimated at 380 million metric tons on the basis of detailed exploration.

Reservation of seats in educational institutions for NRIs

1970. DR. MAM. RAMASWAMY Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reserve 15 per cent seats in educational institutions for children of NRIs from the Gulf and South East Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some universities have expressed certain reservations in implementing this decision; and

(d) if so, the names of such universities and the objections raised by them?

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to reserve one-third out of the 15% supernumerary seats across different disciplines in the educational institutions to be earmarked for the children of Indian workers in the Gulf countries.

(c) and (d) The details sought from the Ministry of Human Resources Development are awaited.